

**Lesson
2**

Simple and Compound Sentences

Teaching

A **simple sentence** has one independent clause and no dependent clauses. Even a simple sentence can be elaborate, and it may have compound parts.

Ed and Vi read and compared the essays. (compound subject, compound verb)

A **compound sentence** has two or more independent clauses joined together, but no dependent clauses. The clauses must be close in thought. They may be joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction or by a semicolon.

They chose Maxine's essay as the winner, **but** the judges said the final choice was hard.

Ed and Vi disagreed on some essays; **however**, they agreed on the quality of Maxine's writing.

The following are coordinating conjunctions:

for and nor or but so yet

Identifying Kinds of Sentences

Identify each sentence below with **S** for simple or **CD** for compound.

1. It was pouring rain; getting a cab was impossible. _____
2. Miguel patched and cleaned the sails of the boat. _____
3. The magazine was both timely and readable. _____
4. Ted read the instructions, and then he built the model. _____
5. At first, television stations were on the air only a few hours a day, but now many broadcast 24 hours a day. _____
6. Computers and printers are standard equipment in most classrooms. _____
7. Leo took the flag down, and Rosaria folded it. _____
8. The train came in early, but I was already at the station. _____
9. The wind started blowing in the morning and kept on until late in the day. _____
10. The storm forced waste water into the lake, so swimming is prohibited today. _____
11. All-electric cars are still too expensive to operate; this hybrid car, however, combines batteries with a gas-powered engine. _____
12. The legendary founders of Rome were raised by wolves. _____
13. Books and clothes were scattered all over the twins' room. _____
14. The picnic begins at noon; the clouds should have cleared by then. _____
15. I finished my homework early and then went outside. _____

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More Practice

A. Identifying Kinds of Sentences

Identify each sentence below with **S** for simple or **CD** for compound.

1. Helium weighs more than hydrogen, but it is less dangerous than the lighter gas. _____
2. A severe storm struck the area and downed power lines. _____
3. The students visited a nursing home; most of them enjoyed the experience. _____
4. The rain stopped abruptly, and cold air swept in from the north. _____
5. The stilt-walker fell during his performance, but his only injury was to his pride. _____
6. The electrician needed tools and insulated wire to restore service. _____
7. Marisa doesn't often express opinions; nevertheless, she recommends this book. _____
8. I must have lost the tickets; they aren't in the envelope. _____
9. In the evening Carlos usually studies or reads at the library. _____
10. Astronauts train hard and prepare for the unexpected. _____

B. Combining Sentences

Combine the two sentences in each item to make a compound sentence. Use a semicolon alone, or a comma with one of the coordinating conjunctions: *and*, *but*, *or*, *nor*, *for*, *so*, *yet*.

1. The benefit dinner was a success. The school band still needed more money for new uniforms.

2. The skater did a back flip. The crowd applauded.

3. Jane's newest house robot moves smoothly. She's very proud of it.

4. Mike worked on the car for hours over the weekend. It still sounds loud.

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In all but two of these items, the two simple sentences can be combined as a compound sentence. If the sentences are close in thought, combine them using a semicolon alone, or a comma with one of the coordinating conjunctions: *and*, *but*, *or*, *nor*, *for*, *so*, *yet*. If the sentences are not close in thought, write **Unconnected Simple Sentences**.

1. Usually this flight takes an hour. This time it took 90 minutes because of strong winds.

2. One usher took our tickets at the door. Another guided us to our seats.

3. The professor has a strong policy against admitting latecomers to class. The topic of today's lecture was "Shakespeare's Influence on the English Language."

4. Bob found an old, nicked-up radio at a garage sale. He has restored it beautifully.

5. My sister had a babysitting job at 6:30 P.M. We ate dinner early.

6. You'll need to get a new flashlight for your hike. The switch on this one is broken.

7. I don't feel well today. The year-end sale at Big Sales offers great discounts.

8. We had snow on the weekend. It melted quickly afterwards.
